

From: Robert A. Gerhardt, RFC
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 1:28pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Dept. of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Boulevard NW
Washington DC 20530

January 28, 2002

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing as an investor and as one who helps other people invest in the American capitalistic system. I note the country has had extraordinary difficulties financing the high tech companies who are our hope in improving productivity. This all started about the time that the competitors to Microsoft goaded the government into starting a federal lawsuit. The investing public worried that the leading innovator in computer generated productivity improvements was going to be attacked and wounded by the government, why wouldn't the same happen to others in the industry? This was a major contributor to the failing confidence by the investing public.

I have read about a reasonable settlement that has been negotiated between Microsoft and the government. I understand that it is under public review at this time. Let me add my voice to the millions of shareholders that depend on the American capitalistic system to continue to improve productivity, profits and expand. I believe that the government has had its opportunity to make its point. Microsoft has made good faith adjustments in its operations and has agreed to share "secrets" with their competitors, something the competitors had sought from the outset. It is time to lift this cloud of intimidation from the technology community and allow our economy to expand once again.

I would hope that the tragedy of Sept. 11th would help all of us including the government refocus on our nation's priorities. It is time to move ahead with improving our people's living conditions and maintaining our economic leadership of the world.

Most Sincerely,

Robert A. Gerhardt
RG/tes

MTC-00028094_0602